

## In the Land Grant Tradition Preservation at the University of Delaware

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**L**and-grant colleges were created to apply knowledge and to improve the quality of life for the citizens and communities of their states.

Graduate research assistantships in the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) at the University of Delaware, a land grant university, are designed to enable students to learn historic preservation in this public service tradition.

CHAD supports graduate study in historic preservation as part of the M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and in conjunction with eight other cosponsoring departments and programs.

Located in the College of Human Resources, Education and Public Policy, CHAD is an interdisciplinary teaching, research, and public service center focusing on historic architecture and landscapes, design issues of the built environment and material culture, historic preservation planning and policy at state and local levels, documentation of historic properties and computer applications to documentation, research on the physical properties of cultural and historical materials, and advocacy for historic resources.

The public service mission of CHAD contributes to the larger land-grant mission of the University of Delaware. Land-grant colleges and

universities were established in the Morrill Act of 1862 which reflected a movement to reform American education by providing more broad-based public support. The Delaware legislature designated Delaware College, later to become the University of Delaware, as the land-grant institution for the state. Across the nation land-grant public service activities focused primarily on agriculture for the next century.

In the 1960s, the Ford Foundation funded 10 universities to experiment with applying the land-grant extension model to cities, using university resources to help solve urban problems. The University of Delaware was one of those selected and it established a Division of Urban Affairs to carry out a land grant mission to the cities and towns throughout the state.

In the early 1970s the university approved doctoral and master's degrees in urban affairs and a master's in public administration and created a graduate College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy to replace the Division. The new college was to undertake applied research and

**W**hen seeking graduate study in historic preservation, I recognized the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) as one of the distinguishing strengths of the University of Delaware program.

My first semester in the program included an examination of the economic incentives for historic preservation in Dr. Ames' "Issues in Land Use and Environmental Policy" course. Through my research, I developed a keen interest in economic and community development programs that integrate a historic preservation ethic.

For my graduate assistantship, I serve as a liaison between the National Main Street Center and six communities throughout the state through the Delaware Economic Development Office. My responsibilities range from assisting with yearly assessments of the local programs to working with CHAD staff in the development of a statewide design assistance workshop. This provides me with an opportunity to work closely with downtown revitalization professionals and learn more about small town local government. The experience also allows me to develop the initiative and the skills necessary to communicate effectively and professionally. Inside the classroom, preservation policies are discussed, such as tax incentives and historic preservation ordinances. Outside the classroom, my understanding of these policies is tested when working with local communities. My work with the Delaware Main Street program also complements my academic development. This semester I am writing a paper for my Planning Theory and Public Policy course on a proposal for a free bike program for Downtown Newark, a Delaware main street community.

—Karen Theimer

public service related to the needs of the communities of Delaware and to establish a national reputation as a center of urban-oriented research and graduate study. A nationally recognized survey of graduate programs in urban affairs, published in 1981 and repeated in 1990, ranked the graduate urban affairs program at Delaware fourth in the nation. In 1997, the College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy merged with two other colleges with strong land grant-missions to form a new College of Human Resources, Education and Public Policy.

Several research and public service centers were established in the college. In the early 1980s professors David Ames and Bernard Herman initiated a program of public service and applied research within the College devoted to the historic preservation needs of state and local governments. In 1984, the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering was established, to be renamed the Center for Historic Architecture and Design in 1996.

In 1988, an 18-semester-hour graduate concentration in historic preservation was established with CHAD's support in the master's in urban affairs and public policy. In addition to a thesis on a preservation topic, there were four required courses: a seminar in historic preservation, a historic preservation methods course, a class in architectural history, and one on historic landscapes. Students in other master's programs, such as art history, history, and geography, may also take the concentration.

Nearly all students have research assistantships and work on research and public service projects in CHAD, developing their professional skills. All students must develop documentation skills by working on the Delaware Valley Threatened Buildings Project, which is funded from a number of sources to document threatened resources to HABS/HAER standards. This integration of graduate instruction with research and service—typical

When beginning graduate school at the University of Delaware, I had little idea of which direction to pursue in the preservation field. My focus had already shifted from museum studies to planning and policy issues, but I found myself amidst a program with many possibilities for specialization. My study and work in emergency management for historic resources evolved through a combination of general interest, academic pursuit, and work experience in the Center for Historic Architecture and Design.

Spurring my fascination with the subject was a preservation-oriented trip to Charleston, South Carolina, when I was an undergraduate at Mary Washington College. A visit to Drayton Hall, surrounded by a landscape drastically affected by Hurricane Hugo, and repeated stories of devastation to many historic resources from various disasters throughout Charleston's history made me realize the on-going threat natural hazards pose to our cultural heritage. I began an academic exploration of the types of natural disasters and their affect on historic resources during my first year in the graduate program in a class term paper for a Land Use and Environmental Policy course, in which I used Charleston as a case study. As the paper progressed, immersed in disaster literature, I found the field of emergency relatively new. Even newer, I discovered, is the idea of preparing our cultural properties for disaster. Building upon this revelation, I decided to produce a hazard vulnerability and risk analysis for the historic properties in Delaware as my master's thesis.

With the assistance of my advisor David Ames, I also secured a joint assistantship with the Center for Historic Architecture and Design and the Disaster Research Center (DRC), both at the University of Delaware. The principal project for this assistantship is to lay the foundation for and begin developing a statewide comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for historic resources. In addition, I am working on various disaster-related projects at the DRC. Complemented with a "Disaster and Politics" course, this work has introduced me to the field of emergency management and helped me understand how to facilitate communication between the two exciting and challenging areas of study.

—Angela Tweedy

of programs in the College of Human Resources, Education and Public Policy—is known in public affairs education as the "Delaware model."

The State Legislature helps support public service devoted to Delaware problems by graduate and undergraduate students through Public Service Assistantships (PSAs). The assistantships are administered as matching grants by the dean's office. When a faculty member or center raises one-half of a stipend for a public service project from external funds, the dean will match it with a public service assistantship. With the PSAs, CHAD faculty, staff and students have developed thematic

Walnut Street, in Milford, Delaware, c. 1907, one of six local communities involved with the Delaware Main Street program. Photo courtesy Historical Society of Delaware Postcard Collection.



nection between preservation and economic and community development. In a state of small towns and cities, the National Main Street Program seemed the best context in which to combine this interest with public service. The Delaware Economic Development Office, which administers the Delaware Main Street Program, enthusiastically supported the concept and contributed funding for a Main Street graduate assistantship. The Main Street graduate research assistant works as Associate Program Coordinator for the Delaware Main Street

assistantships that relate to sub-areas of historic preservation. Consequently CHAD has been working with agencies and other funding sources to develop long-term thematic assistantships. They are:

**The Delaware Valley Threatened Buildings Documentation Graduate Assistantships**, co-sponsored by two state historic preservation offices. The historic urban and rural built landscapes of Delaware are being ravaged by new suburban development and central city redevelopment. With grants from the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office and the Maryland Historical Trust, CHAD staff and students document historic structures threatened with demolition, abandonment, neglect, or renovation to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record. Student teams, led by CHAD staff and experienced Threatened Building Graduate Assistants document the structures. The graduate assistants are Jeroen Van den Hurk (Ph.D., Art History); Cristina Radu, (MA, Urban Affairs and Public Policy); Cindy Adams, (MA, Urban Affairs and Public Policy)

**The Delaware Main Street Graduate and Undergraduate Assistantships**, co-sponsored by the Delaware Economic Development Office. Students have become more interested in the con-

Program. The graduate assistant, Karen Theimer (MA, Urban Affairs and Public Policy) is working with six Main Street communities and assisted by two undergraduates with Public Service Assistantships: Kelly Souffie and Amy Hayes, both majoring in Consumer Studies. Ms Theimer helped develop this assistantship and is the first to hold it.

**The Preservation Delaware Assistantship** co-sponsored by Preservation Delaware, Inc., the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization. The Preservation Delaware graduate assistant, Martha Daniel (MA, Urban Affairs and Public Policy), acts as an assistant to the executive director and organizes grass roots support for historic preservation in the state. A variety of tasks and projects include preparation of the

The damage to historic resources, as seen after Hurricane Hugo in this Sullivan's Island photograph, sparked interest in a disaster preparedness assistantship. Photo by David Ames.



The demolition of Mt. Zion Church, the mother U.A.M.E. Church, was one of the losses that triggered the inventory of African-American historic resources in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. Photo by David Ames



Goucher College, a paper was given on how, in Tennessee and elsewhere, the agricultural extension service provided Ladies Rest Rooms as places for farm women to relax and meet with their neighbors on trips to town, and to demonstrate the latest methods and appliances of home management. The University of Delaware developed a home economics extension service in 1914 and Beth Ravalico, an undergraduate PSA in Consumer Studies, is exploring the information and advice given to

semi-annual publication, *The Preservation Primer*.

**The Preservation and Disaster Preparedness Assistantship.** The historic resources along the Atlantic coast are frequently confronted with storm hazards and always face local threats such as fires and floods. Disaster preparedness needs to be an important part of historic preservation planning in Delaware. The co-sponsor of this assistantship is the Disaster Research Center at the University. Angela Tweedy, the disaster preparedness graduate assistant is researching and writing a disaster preparedness plan for historic resources in Delaware. In doing so, she has been in contact with SHPOs and undertaken a comparative analysis of disaster preparedness plans. Ms Tweedy helped develop this assistantship and is the first to hold it.

**The African-American Historic Resources Assistantship.** Arising out of the loss of African-American resources in the city of Wilmington to redevelopment, the first priority of this project, funded by the Mayor's Office, is to inventory and map all known African-American historic resources in the community. The goal of the project is to develop a historic context of the African-American experience in Wilmington to guide development decisions. One product of the project will be a web page of African-American historic resources in the city. Patricia Knock (MA, Urban Affairs and Public Affairs) is the graduate public service assistant and the first to hold the position; she is assisted by Tari Mitchell, an undergraduate in Consumer Studies.

**The Delaware Rural Historic Home Economics Extension Assistantship.** Last spring at a conference on historic significance, co-sponsored by the National Council for Preservation Education, the National Park Service, and

farmers by the service from 1914 to 1930. As these students work with local communities and preservation organizations they are melding the land-grant tradition of the university with the grass-roots tradition of historic preservation.

*David L. Ames is Director of the Center for Historic Architecture and Design and Professor of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and Geography, University of Delaware.*

*Karen Theimer is a graduate research assistant, Center for Historic Architecture and Design.*

*Angela Tweedy is a graduate research assistant, Center for Historic architecture and Design, and Center for Disaster Research.*



Kelly Soussie, Karen Theimer, and Amy Hayes. Ms. Theimer holds a graduate Public Service Assistantship with the Delaware Main Street Program in the State Office of Economic Development and serves as the associate director for the program. Ms. Soussie and Ms. Hayes hold undergraduate Public Service assistantships and work with Ms Theimer on the Main Street program. They are standing in front of Main Street posters designed by Ms. Soussie and Ms Hayes which were used at the Governor's Tourism Conference and which will be displayed at the Annual Conference of Preservation Delaware.